

Honorary Fellow A Citation

Dr Li Wai-tat, Walton, MD (UCLA USA), MCPS (Manitoba), FRCP RCPS (Glasg), FCOphth HK, DABOph, FHKAM (Ophthalmology), HonDSocSc (HK)

Dr Li Wai-tat Walton, eminent ophthalmologist and medical leader in Hong Kong, comes from a distinguished family of medical doctors that some refer to as the 'Li dynasty of medicine' in Hong Kong's medical history.

Dr Li Shu-fan, his uncle, was a renowned surgeon and physician who served as personal medical advisor to Dr Sun Yat-sen and the first Minister of Health of Dr Sun's government in 1912. A native of Taishan in western Guangdong province, Dr Li Shu-fan had spent a few years in America in his young age before returning to Hong Kong to join the anti-Manchu revolutionary movement led by Dr Sun. Back to Hong Kong in 1905, he joined the Tongmenghui (Revolutionary Alliance) and enrolled at the Hong Kong College of Medicine (later incorporated into the Faculty of Medicine of The University of Hong Kong) where he graduated in 1908. He then further studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. After his return, he served the provisional government as its first Minister of Health, upon the invitation of Dr Sun Yat-sen, President of the provisional government. In the early 1920s he was Dean of the Kung Yee University Medical School in Canton before he returned to Hong Kong in 1926 to become the Superintendent and Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Yeung Wo Nursing Home, which was established in 1922 in Happy Valley with only 28 beds. Dr Li led Yeung Wo through the difficult years, renaming it the Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital (HKSH), rebuilding and reorganizing it into a new medical facility, and transforming it from a nursing home into a modern medical centre and quality health care provider in Hong Kong during his long tenure. After 40 years at the helm of HKSH, Dr Li Shu-fan passed away in 1966, and was succeeded by his brother, Dr Li Shu-pui, Dr Walton Li's father. As Chairman of the Board of Directors and Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the next 40 years, Dr Li Shu-pui, a medical doctor specialized in otorhinolaryngology, continued the expansion and development of HKSH by introducing innovative medical technologies, adding new blocks and new services, and consolidating HKSH's reputation as the premiere private hospital in Hong Kong. He passed away at the age of 102 in 2005 and was succeeded by his youngest son, Dr Walton Li, who is an eminent ophthalmologist.

Dr Walton Li is proud to carry on the family mantle as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Medical Superintendent of HKSH. He is determined to make HKSH a comprehensive medical institution serving the Hong Kong community with better

quality service and excellent care. He has been introducing new medical services and technologies, to train the best and brightest, to employ the most-qualified and experienced, and most importantly, to make every patient feel satisfied from the day of registration to the day of discharge. As Dr Li describes it, he wants HKSH to provide 'whole-person care' and the 'Total Patient Experience.'

Dr Li first studied chemistry at the University of Southern California, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science. He then pursued medical training at the School of Medicine of the University of California, Los Angeles, where he obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1974. He completed his fellowship in Corneal and External Ocular Disease at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and became a Diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology in 1979.

Dr Li returned to Hong Kong and joined HKSH in 1980, where he established the Department of Ophthalmology, and has been head of the department since. In the same year, he was appointed Deputy Medical Superintendent of the Hospital. In 2005, he was elected the Hospital's Medical Superintendent and Chairman of the Board of Directors. In the same year Dr Li was also elected Chairman of the Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation.

Under Dr Li's leadership, HKSH has developed into a prestigious private hospital in Hong Kong with new medical technologies, state-of-the-art medical devices and infrastructure, and patient care which comes from the heart. Currently the departments and centres at HKSH include Ophthalmology, Dentistry, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Haematology, Nephrology, Paediatrics, Respiratory Medicine, Women's Health and Obstetrics, Surgery, Anaesthesiology, Medicine, Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Physiotherapy, Cardiology, and Clinical Psychology. Dr Li wants to achieve the goal of making HKSH an excellent and comprehensive medical centre through research, collaboration and most importantly, training programmes for doctors and nurses. In his own words, 'The better you train the next generation of doctors and nurses, the better it is for medical care and services for the patients in the future.'

As Chairman of the Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation, Dr Walton Li has shown great interest and deep commitment to improving medical research and medical education in Hong Kong. He organizes regular medical research talks and lectures at HKSH for staff members as well as colleagues from the public hospitals and the universities for information exchange and sharing of experiences. Through the Foundation, he provides scholarships, bursaries and prizes to medical and nursing students of local universities. The Foundation also makes important contributions

to The University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong for the development of medical education and medical research. In 2013 and 2014, through the Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation, Dr Li has established two named professorships in the Department of Clinical Oncology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

For his dedication towards the betterment of the health care system in Hong Kong through the efforts of HKSH, and for his sustained generous support to the University in medical research and medical education, all for the sake of 'leaving the world a little richer than when I found it,' to quote the words of his uncle, Dr Li Shu-fan. Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present to you Dr Li Wai-tat Walton for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.

This citation is written by Professor Leung Yuen-sang

